

To:	Eric Gobler for email distrib'n	Date:	04/02/04
via:	email	cc:	Sylvia Hamilton/SMNA
Subject:	March 12, 2004 PCAG Meeting Minutes		

A meeting of the Perchlorate Community Advisory Group was held at the San Martin Lions Club, 12415 Murphy Avenue, San Martin, on March 12, 2004.

1. **Pledge:** The Chair, Ms. Sylvia Hamilton, led the Pledge.

2. **Introductions:** See the sign-in roster for attendees. The Committee members and audience did self-introductions.

3. Administrative Items

3a. **Additional Agenda Items:** Two additional agenda items were discussed.

- i. An email virus warning was issued.
- ii. Hard copies of reports, correspondence, etc. are included at the Morgan Hill library along with CD copies at Gavilan Community College. The sites are under construction, and will be updated periodically. The SCVWD also serves all documents on their Internet site.
www.valleywater.org

3b. **Attendee Sign-In Sheet:** Interested parties should add their name and contact information to the sign-in sheet on the back table to get on the mailing list.

3c. **Approve February 13, 2004 meeting minutes:** The minutes were approved with one correction.

The Chair moved to Item 4.

4. **Assemblyman John Laird:** Assembly member John Laird recognized Chairwomen Sylvia Hamilton as the Women of the Year for the district.

Mr. Laird discussed the recently established perchlorate public health goal (PHG) of 6 ppb. The PHG is the first stage of the process followed by the establishment of a maximum contaminant level (MCL). A number of additional factors will contribute to the MCL. The PHG was set based on recommended doses affecting the most sensitive populations. The PHG level was discussed and a handout summarizing the "Perchlorate Maximum Contaminant Level Process" was distributed.

Public comment and questions to the Regional Board, SCVWD, and cites regarding the establishment of the PHG followed. In summary:

Q: How will the 6 ppb level effect city pumping?

A: Mr. Ashcraft responded that there would be no changes in Morgan Hill, and he will announce any Gilroy does not have any detections, so there is no effect either.

Q: What were the criteria used for the establishment of 6 ppb?

A: The chairwomen discussed the basis is scientific evidence from the Greer study. A safety factor was included for the most sensitive populations. OEHHA's report is online indicating the results.

Q: Will anyone between 4-6 ppb stop receiving bottled water?

A: Eric Gobler of the Regional Board expects no immediate changes. For cleanup, it is helpful to have defined the level of concern, but the PHG will not have a major impact on cleanup. Cleanup is

based on background levels, and the PHG will also be considered. Background is the level present without contaminant source present.

San Martin resident requested that replacement water remain steady with continued monitoring of wells and delivery of bottled water.

The chair summarized that cleanup refers to the entire plume in the aquifer, while replacement water refers to cleanup of individual wells. The Regional Boards goal is cleanup of the entire plume.

Q: What is the background level?

A: The background level is estimated to be around zero, but cleanup has to take into account measurable levels and lab accuracy.

Ms. Rosemary Kamei discussed the SCVWD's policy that one cannot degrade an aquifer and if so it must be restored so it can be used as it was prior to contamination. The SCVWD is focused on long-term restoration. Tom Mohr of the SCVWD commented on the accuracy of laboratory tests and the great amount of uncertainty. 6 ppb is a small number, and affirms it is a contaminant that needs to be dealt with.

The MCL process will take into account cost, while the PHG does not.

5. RWQCB update: Mr. David Athey announced the RB meeting will be March 19th in Salinas City Hall. Olin will present regarding health effects along with OEHHA, and PWG. Mr. Athey discussed the reports and submittals due from Olin in the month of April including basis for monitoring wells up gradient of Gilroy, alternative water supply replacement, and the 1st Quarter Groundwater Monitoring Report with groundwater extraction and treatment performance. The RB will meet with Olin the following month to discuss the submittals. The onsite ion exchange systems is running and discharging into the Butterfield retention basin. Offsite, Olin is still analyzing the down gradient extent of the plume.

Q: The Chair asked if there are enough monitoring wells south of the plume?

A: If Olin cannot determine extent of plume with supply wells, then they would have to find another way to monitor the site.

Ms. Hamilton encourage every resident allow well testing at their home. In the southern extent of the plume, Olin reported 1/3 of residents did not respond or refused to have their well tested. Residents attending also offered assistance to help encourage their neighbors to allow testing.

6. Alternative Water Supply Discussion: Mr. Athey discussed the alternative water supply outline recently submitted by Olin, and the comments from the Regional Board. The RB required Olin outline how they would provide alternative water for a potential range of MCLs. Options include treatment of water, and/or expansion of supply wells. A long-term solution is required until aquifer is restored to beneficial uses. A report (due April 16th) will precede the outline. It is a working document, and comments from everyone, including PCAG, SCVWD, and the cities, will be taken. Rich Chandler of Komex discussed their comments on the outline. The alternative water supply should not be based on a MCL being established; four ppb should be minimum standard, and Olin is already supplying water at 2 ppb.

The Regional Board does not see alternative water supply as a corrective action for groundwater cleanup, but it is an initial step. Questions were raised regarding alternative treatment; wellhead

technology could aid in the treatment of the basin. Septic tanks may also aid in the remediation of perchlorate.

6 d. Additional agenda items for future meetings: Sylvia asked the committee what maps they wished to see. She noted Olin's reports only present the most recent data. The committee expressed interest in hearing more about availability of wellhead treatment certification status for various systems.

CMH Mayor Dennis Kennedy suggested that perchlorate levels at the site should be tracked now that the treatment system has started up. Bob Wood thanked John Laird for attending, and for nominating and awarding Sylvia Hamilton the 'Woman of the Year' award. Bob Wood also asked for a presentation on Groundwater Guardian by Tracy Hemmeter, and wants to hear information on the occurrence of perchlorate in fertilizer.

Sylvia Hamilton will be away in May - Bob Cerruti will run that meeting.

7. Real Estate Update: The South County Realtors Association's government relations representative Susan Sosubee reported that they have seen no large decreases in property values. Lenders deal with properties on a case-by-case basis; realtors are most concerned about lawsuits. She commended the PCAG for publicizing the perchlorate information. A review of sales statistics for the 2001 through 2003 period showed no significant decrease in sales prices or property values. There has been a countywide sales slump in response to the economic downturn, but none in San Martin that could be specifically attributable to the perchlorate problem.

8. Groundwater Guardian Program: Tracy Hemmeter reported on the Groundwater Guardian Program. San Martin has now been entered into the Groundwater Guardian Program. This allows SCVWD to support the San Martin groundwater community. Sylvia suggested that this may help the PCAG obtain additional administrative and modest financial support for office supplies. She noted the importance of the Groundwater Guardian Program is that it recognizes that there is a community working together for groundwater support and protection.

9 a. Perchlorate Working Group update: Tracy Hemmeter provided an update on the Perchlorate Working Group, which includes the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill, the County, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The PWG focused its discussion on the Public Health Goal and preparations for presenting at the March 19th RWQCB meeting. The PWG takes the position that the new Public Health Goal does not relieve Olin of its obligation to cleanup perchlorate contamination in the Llagas Groundwater Subbasin.

The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT PCAG MEETING: *Friday, April 9, 2004, 2 - 4 pm at San Martin Lions Club Hall, 12415 Murphy Ave., San Martin.* Agenda items to Sylvia Hamilton (sylvialrs@hotmail.com).

Minutes submitted by Kristina Seley and Tom Mohr